



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Shana Jones or Daryl Fields  
(210) 384-7440

**October 31, 2003**

**U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES ELECTION DAY PROGRAM TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS**

United States Attorney **Johnny Sutton** announced today the implementation of an Election Day program to protect voting rights and prosecute election fraud stemming from the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election.

"I want to encourage all Americans to exercise their constitutional right to vote on Tuesday," stated U.S. Attorney Sutton. He noted that election fraud corrupts the essence of our representative form of government and dilutes the worth of votes honestly cast. "As a crime against both the individual and the government, election fraud will be dealt with promptly and aggressively," he added.

Sutton also announced the creation of a special election unit to receive citizen complaints about possible voting rights violations including vote suppression and voter intimidation. Federal law prohibits voter intimidation, voting by ineligible individuals, bribery of voters, destruction of valid ballots or registrations, altering vote tallies, multiple voting, abuse of absentee ballots, malfeasance by election officials and ballot boxes disappearances. Sutton appointed Assistant United States Attorney Ray Jahn to head the unit.

This appointment was made pursuant to a nationwide Department of Justice Voting Integrity Initiative announced by Attorney General John Ashcroft. The purpose of this nationwide federal law enforcement program, which the Department has implemented during national general elections since the late 1960's, is to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by strengthening and enhancing the Department's efforts to protect voting rights and to prosecute election crime throughout the country.

As the District Election Officer, Jahn will coordinate investigative efforts by Special Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other federal prosecutors throughout the Western District of Texas and in Washington, D.C. They will be available to receive complaints of election fraud while the polls are open. If you have an election fraud complaint, please contact Ray Jahn in San Antonio at (210) 384-7150 or Assistant United States Attorney Debra Kanof in El Paso at (915) 534-6884.

#####